COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

Relevant Papers

32

ITALIAN GOVT.

REFUGEES FROM THE FORMER AFRICAN COLONIES.

Hearings

1947-48.

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Lancaster House,

18 Nov. 1947 – 22 Mar 48

17 Meeting – 25 Meeting

FO 1086/110

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Piece 110

FO 1086/110

(26482) Wt.48438/1129 500 1/44 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.686

3A

Ambasciata d'Italia,
14, Three Kings Yard,
London, W.1.

No 5587.

18th November, 1947

Sir,

With reference to Signor Migone's letter of the 15th October 1947 (No.4924), enclosing a note addressed by the Italian Government to the Deputy Foreign Ministers on the subject of hearing the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, I have the honour to forward a further note on the same subject.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly place it before the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. Gallarati Scotti

(T. Gallarati Scotti)

E. A. Paton-Smith, Esq.,
Secretary General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House, S.W.1.

Italian Embassy,
4, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

The Italian Government wish to confirm the request which they have presented to the Deputy Foreign Ministers with their note of the 15th October 1947, i.e. that the Commission of Investigation appointed by the Deputies, should hear the views of the Italians from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, at present displaced in Italy.

According to the formula of the Treaty of Peace, the aim of the Commission of Investigation is to "ascertain the views of the local population". The refugees at present in Italy must be considered on account of the circumstances set forth in the previous note of the Italian Government as an integral part of the local population of Libya, Eritrea and Somalia. They were in fact forced to leave those territories and are still in Italy for reasons not dependent from their choice, having in Africa their homes and all their interests.

They represent a considerable percentage of the Italians of Libya, Eritrea and Somalia; the Commission of Investigation, therefore, only by hearing also these refugees, will be in a position to ascertain fully the wishes of the Italians of the territories in question. The Commission would thus be able to gain a true picture of the actual populations and would not be misled by the changes brought about in this field by the events of recent years.

The above mentioned refugees can be divided

p .t.o.

into two categories: Those living independently, who are a very small minority, and those who are maintained by public assistance. Of the latter, according to up-to-date figures 83831 are from Libya and 49946 from Eritrea or Somalia.

Most of them belong to two Associations: One composed exclusively of refugees from Libya (39979 members), the other composed of refugees from Italian East Africa (15396 members). It is to be noted, however, that the Statutes of the two associations differ in that the association of refugees from Italian East Africa accepts membership only of heads of families and therefore the actual number represented by it is far higher than the figure given above.

The two associations have headquarters in Rome and branches in other regions with presidents and executive councils freely elected by the members.

Part of the refugees (5443 on November 15th) are still gathered in camps in Central and Southern Italy and in Sicily. The largest camps are in Rome (2375 on 1st November 1947) and in Siracusa, Sicily (1037 on the same date).

The Italian Government believe that a suitable solution could be found by instructing the Commission of Investigation to visit the main refugee camps and to question the central and branch presidents of the two associations. To this end the Italian Government feel they must renew their request, the acceptance of which, in their views, would serve the interests of an objective and thorough investigation.

London, 18th November, 1947.

RAPPRESENTANZA ITALIANA
REPUBBLICA ITALIANA
LONDRA

SECRET

C.F.M./D/L/47/IC 77

19th November, 1947

181

COPY NO._____

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

(Communication from H.E. The Italian Ambassador)

The following communication dated 18th November 1947 from H.E. The Italian Ambassador in London is circulated herewith for the information of the Deputies.

E.A. PATON-SMITH.

Secretary-General.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

19th November, 1947

Ambasciata d'Italia,
14, Three Kings Yard,
London, W.1.

18th November, 1947

x x x

With reference to Signor Migone's letter of the 15th October 1947 (No.4924), enclosing a note addressed by the Italian Government to the Deputy Foreign Ministers on the subject of hearing the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, I have the honour to forward a further note on the same subject.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly place it before the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers.

x x x

(Signed) T. GALLARATI SCOTTI.

ITALIAN EMBASSY,
4, Grosvenor Scuare, W.1.

The Italian Government wish to confirm the request which they have presented to the Deputy Foreign Ministers with their note of the 15th October 1947, i.e. that the Commission of Investigation appointed by the Deputies, should hear the views of the Italians from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, at present displaced in Italy.

According to the formula of the Treaty of Peace, the aim of the Commission of Investigation is to "ascertain the views of the local populations". The refugees at present in Italy must be considered on account of the circumstances set forth in the previous note of the Italian Government as an integral part of the local population of Libya, Eritrea and Somalia. They were in fact forced to leave those territories and are still in Italy for reasons not dependent from their choice, having in Africa their homes and all their interests.

They represent a considerable percentage of the Italians of Libya, Eritrea and Somalia; the Commission of Investigation, therefore, only by hearing also these refugees, will be in a position to ascertain fully the wishes of the Italians of the territories in question. The Commission would thus be able to gain a true picture of the actual populations and would not be misled by the changes brought about in this field by the events of recent years.

The above mentioned refugees can be divided into two categories: Those living independently, who are a very small minority, and those who are maintained by public assistance. Of the latter, according to up-to-date figures 83831 are from Libya and 49946 from Eritrea or Somalia.

Most of them belong to two Associations: one composed exclusively of refugees from Libya (39979 members), the other composed of refugees from Italian East Africa (15396 members). It is to be noted, however, that the Statutes of the two associations differ in that the association of refugees from Italian East Africa accepts membership only of heads of families and therefore the actual number represented by it is far higher than the figure given above.

The two associations have headquarters in Rome and branches in other regions with presidents and executive councils freely elected by the members.

Part of the refugees (5443 on November 15th) are still gathered in camps in Central and Southern Italy and in Sicily. The largest camps are in Rome (2375 on 1st November 1947) and in Siracusa, Sicily, (1037 on the same date).

The Italian Government believe that a suitable solution could be found by instructing the Commission of Investigation to visit the main refugee camps and to question the central and branch presidents of the two associations. To this end the Italian Government feel they must renew their request, the acceptance of which, in their views, would serve the interests of an objective and thorough investigation.

London, 18th November, 1947.

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SECRET

C.F.M./D/L/47/IC 17th Meeting COPY NO. 163

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken at the 17th Meeting of the Deputies for the Italian Colonies held at Lancaster House, London, S.W.1. on Saturday, 22nd November, 1947 at 10 a.m.

PRESENT

FRANCE

M. MASSIGLI (Chairman)
M. Francfort
M. Andro

U.K.

SIR NOEL CHARLES
Mr. R.D.J. Scott-Fox

U.S.A.

MR. W.J. GALLMAN
Mr. D.W. Thomasson
Mr. A. Wellons

U.S.S.R.

M. G.N. ZARUBIN
M. G.F. Saksin
M. Zubov

I. RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE 15th AND 16th MEETINGS

The Deputies APPROVED the Records of Decisions of the 15th and 16th Meetings.

II. LETTERS TO OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS.

The Deputies concluded their discussion of the replies to be sent to other interested Governments and AGREED to instruct the Secretary-General:-

(a) to send an acknowledgement to the other interested Governments whose communications were awaiting replies, in accordance with a draft to be agreed by the Secretaries of Delegations;

(b) to withdraw the letter which he had sent in error to the Governments of Canada and Australia on the 13th November, 1947.

In agreeing to the foregoing, the U.K. Deputy made the following statement which he wished to have included in the present record:

"In acting in this manner, the rights of the Governments of Canada and Australia should not suffer in any way and these Governments should be treated in a manner no less favourable than that accorded to the Governments of South Africa and New Zealand."

In/

In connexion with the foregoing statement the U.S.S.R. Deputy made the following statement which he wished to have included in the present Record:

"The Governments of Canada and Australia should be given the same rights as are given to all interested Governments in accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the Deputies for hearing the views of these Governments on the disposal of the former Italian Colonies."

In consequence of the above the CHAIRMAN wished to have it recorded that nothing had happened to change the decision already taken by the Deputies that all interested Governments should be given equal opportunity to express their views both in writing and orally.

III. INFORMATION TO THE COMMISSION

The Deputies AGREED that copies of the statements made by the Governments of Ethiopia, Egypt and Italy should be sent to the Commission under cover of a letter from the Secretary-General. The text of this letter was discussed and AGREED by the Deputies.

The Deputies AGREED that the transmission of copies of these statements to the Commission did not establish a precedent and that the Deputies would decide in each case in the future whether copies of the statements of other interested Governments would be forwarded to the Commission or not.

IV. ITALIAN REFUGEES.

The Deputies discussed the request of the Italian Government that the Commission of Investigation should hear the views of Italian refugees from the former Italian Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy, and AGREED to instruct the Secretary-General to send a letter to the Commission asking for their views on this subject.

V. NEXT MEETING

The Deputies did not fix any date for their next meeting.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

22nd November, 1947.

FILE COPY

24th November, 1947.

In accordance with the instructions of the Deputies that a letter should be sent to the Chairman of the Commission on the subject of the hearing of the views of the Italian refugees, I have the honour to enclose draft, and shall be grateful if you would let me have your approval or proposed amendment.

P.S.

Mr. Waldemar J. Gallman,
U.S.A. Embassy,
1 Grosvenor Square. W.1.

Above letter sent also
to
Mr. Stannard
Mr. Svirin
Mr. Francfort

DRAFT LETTER

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

On the instructions of the Deputies, I have the honour to send you herewith 10 copies of the English text, 5 of the Russian and 5 of the French of Document C.F.M./D/L/47/IC.77 which sets out the request made by the Italian Government that the Commission should hear the views of the Italian refugees from the former African Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy. The Deputies would like to have the views of the Commission on the question of hearing the views of these refugees.

The Deputies do not consider that the approved time-table and programme of the Commission should be changed in any way.

I should be grateful if the Commission would forward their views for submission to the Deputies at an early opportunity.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

American Embassy,
1, Grosvenor Square,
London, W.1.

November 24, 1947.

Dear Paton-Smith

I wish to inform you that the draft letter, enclosed with your letter of November 24th, which is to be sent to the Chairman of the Commission on the subject of hearing the views of the Italian refugees has my approval.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. Lucas

E. A. Paton-Smith, Esq.,
Secretary General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House,
S.W.1.

3

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE

A LONDRES

3, Carlton Gardens, S.W.1.

88

25th. November, 1947

Dear Mr Paton-Smith,

The draft of your letter to the Chairman of the Commission on the subject of the hearing of the views of the Italian Refugees, has been submitted to the Ambassador.

Monsieur Massigli approves this draft, and has no amendment to suggest.

Yours sincerely

Gérard André.

E.A.Paton Smith, Esq.,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House,
London, S.W.1.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AMERICAN EMBASSY
1, Grosvenor Square,
London, W. 1.,

November 26, 1947

Dear Paton-Smith:

I have been informed of the change in paragraph (1) suggested in the draft letter to the Chairman of the Commission regarding hearing the views of the Italian refugees and I desire to place on record my approval of the draft as amended, a copy of which in its amended form I attach herewith.

Sincerely,

W. J. Gallman

Enclosure

E. A. Paton-Smith, Esq.,
Secretary General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House,
S. W. 1.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DRAFT LETTER

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION

On the instructions of the Deputies, I have the honor to send you herewith ten copies of the English text, five of the Russian and five of the French of Document C.F.M./D/L/47/IC.77 which sets out the request made by the Italian Government that the Commission should hear the views of the Italian refugees from the former African Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy. The Deputies would like to have the views of the Commission on the question of hearing the views of these refugees, bearing in mind that the date of the presentation of the Commission's last report should not be postponed.

I should be grateful if the Commission would forward their views for submission to the Deputies at an early opportunity.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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90

AMBASSADE DE FRANCE
A LONDRES

3, Carlton Gardens, S.W.1.

27th. November, 1947

Dear Mr Paton Smith

I write to confirm that Monsieur Massigli, the French Deputy, approves the draft letter to the Chairman of the Commission about the hearing of Italian refugees, with the alterations we agreed on yesterday morning, i.e.: Paragraph 2 is deleted, and the last sentence of Paragraph 1 reads as follows:

".....the views of these refugees, bearing in mind that the date of presentation of the Commission's last report should not be postponed."

I also confirm that Monsieur Massigli approves the draft of the letter transmitting the views of Ethiopia, Italy and Egypt, and the record of decisions of the 17th. meeting enclosed with your letter of November 26th.

Yours sincerely

Gérard André.

E.A.Paton Smith, Esq.,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House, S.W.1.

3

SECRET

C.F.M./D/L/47/IC/83.

1st December, 1947.

COPY NO. 168

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

(Communication to the Commission for the Investigation of the Former Italian Colonies)

The following communication dated 29th November, 1947, addressed to the Chairman of the Commission for the investigation of the Former Italian Colonies is circulated herewith for the information of the Deputies.

E.A. PATON-SMITH.

Secretary-General.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

1st December, 1947.

29th November, 1947.

* * *

On the instructions of the Deputies, I have the honour to send you herewith ten copies of the English text, five of the Russian and five of the French of Document C.F.M./D/L/47/IC/77 which sets out the request made by the Italian Government that the Commission should hear the views of the Italian refugees from the former African Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy. The Deputies would like to have the views of the Commission on the question of hearing the views of these refugees, bearing in mind that the date of the presentation of the Commission's last report should not be postponed.

I should be grateful if the Commission would forward their views for submission to the Deputies at an early opportunity.

* * *

E.A. Paton-Smith.

Secretary-General.

The Chairman of the
Commission for the Investigation
of the Former Italian Colonies.

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SECRET

168

CFM/D/L/47/IC/85.

Copy No._____

5th January, 1948.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

The Secretary-General circulates herewith, for the information of Delegations, a copy of a letter dated 26th December, 1947 received from the Senior Secretary of the Commission of Investigation.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

5th January, 1948.

Commission of Investigation,
(Former Italian Colonies)
The Palace,
ASMARA.

26th December, 1947.

Sir,

With further reference to your letter dated 29th November in which it was stated that the Deputies wished to have the views of the Commission regarding the hearing of refugees from the former African Colonies, who are now living in Camps in Italy, I am instructed by the Heads of Delegations to inform you that they would prefer, if the Deputies are agreeable, to withhold the presentation of their views on this subject until their arrival in Libya.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(SGD.) J.S. CRUM.

Lieutenant Colonel
Senior Secretary.

The Secretary-General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House,
London. S.W.1.

Commission of Investigation,
(Former Italian Colonies)
The Palace,
ASMARA.

26th December, 1947.

Sir,

With further reference to your letter dated 29th November in which it was stated that the Deputies wished to have the views of the Commission, regarding the hearing of refugees from the former African Colonies, who are now living in camps in Italy, I am instructed by the Heads of Delegations to inform you that they would prefer, if the Deputies are agreeable, to withhold the presentation of their views on this subject until their arrival in Libya.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

J.Crum

J.S.Crum,
Lieutenant Colonel,
Senior Secretary.

The Secretary General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House,
LONDON, S.W.1.

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Commission of Investigation,
(Former Italian Colonies),
The Palace,
ASMARA.

12th December, 1947.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Chairman of the Commission of Investigation to thank you for your letter of the 29th November, 1947 referring to views of Italian Refugees. A further reply will be forwarded shortly.

I am,
Sir,

J. Cum

Lieutenant Colonel,
Senior Secretary.

The Secretary-General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House,
London, S.W.1.

3 A

Italian Embassy,
4, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

No. 996.

26th February 1948

Sir,

With reference to my letter of 18th November 1947 (No.5587)* enclosing a Note addressed by the Italian Government to the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers on the subject of hearing the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, I have the honour to forward a further Note on the same subject.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly place it before the Deputies.

I am, Sir

Your obedient Servant,

T. Gallarati Scotti

E.A.Paton-Smith,Esq.
Secretary General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House, S.W.1.

* C.F.M/D/L/47/1C 44

Italian Embassy,
4, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

The Italian Government, with reference to their request that the Commission of Investigation appointed by the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers should hear the views of the Italians from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia at present displaced in Italy, would be grateful to be informed of the decisions reached by the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers on the matter.

London, 26th February 1948.

3A

SECRET

C.F.M./D/L/48/IC/107.

COPY NO. 176

27th February, 1948.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

The Secretary-General circulates herewith, for the information of Delegations, a copy of a letter and enclosure dated the 26th February, 1948, from the Italian Ambassador.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

27th February, 1948.

Italian Embassy,
4, Grosvenor Square,
W.1.

26th February, 1948.

* * *

With reference to my letter of 18th November 1947 (No.5587)+ enclosing a Note addressed by the Italian Government to the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers on the subject of hearing the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, I have the honour to forward a further Note on the same subject.

I shall be grateful if you will kindly place it before the Deputies.

* * *

(Signed) T. GALLARATI SCOTTI

+ C.F.M./D/L/47/IC/77.

Italian Embassy,
4 Grosvenor Square,
W.1.

The Italian Government, with reference to their request that the Commission of Investigation appointed by the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers should hear the views of the Italians from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia at present displaced in Italy, would be grateful to be informed of the decisions reached by the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers on the matter.

London, 26th February, 1948.

3A

SECRET

CFM/D/L/48/IC/ 24th Meeting

10th March, 1948

178

COPY NO. _____

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken at the 24th Meeting of the Deputies for the Italian Colonies held at Lancaster House, London, on 10th March, 1948 at 3 p.m.

PRESENT

U.S.A.

MR. W.J. GALLMANN (Chairman)
Mr. D.T. Thomasson
Mr. A.E. Wellons

FRANCE

M. J. LE ROY
M. G. André

U.S.S.R.

MR. G.N. ZARUBIN
Mr. G.F. Saksin

U.K.

MR. R.D.J. SCOTT-FOX
Mr. I. W. Bell
Maj. Gen. A.V. Anderson

I. RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE 23RD MEETING

The Deputies APPROVED the Record of Decisions of the 23rd Meeting.

II. HEARING OF THE VIEWS OF OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS

The Deputies considered the proposal made by the French Delegation (CFM/D/L/48/IC/111).

The Deputies were unable to agree on dates for hearings; they DECIDED to report this fact to their respective Governments and to leave this question on their agenda for a later meeting.

III. HEARING OF THE VIEWS OF THE ITALIAN REFUGEES (CFM/D/L/47/IC/85, CFM/D/L/48/IC/107)

The Deputies AGREED that the views of the Italian refugees should be heard and that the Italian Government should be informed accordingly. The Deputies instructed the Secretary-General to write to the Commission of Investigation in order to obtain its views on the most suitable time and method of arranging such hearings.

/IV.

IV. PUBLIC SECURITY IN ITALIAN SOMALILAND

The Deputies discussed the letter received from the Senior Secretary of the Commission of Investigation (CFM/D/L/48/IC/112), and DECIDED that this was not a matter coming within the terms of reference of the Deputies. They instructed the Secretary-General to forward a copy of this letter to the United Kingdom Deputy with the request that he should transmit it to His Majesty's Government for information. They also instructed the Secretary-General to advise the Commission of Investigation of the action taken.

V. MEMORANDUM BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON LIBYA (CFM/D/L/48/IC/115)

The Deputies DECIDED that copies of this document should be forwarded to the Commission of Investigation, for the information of the Commission.

VI. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION ON ERITREA

The Secretary-General made a verbal report to the Deputies in connexion with the Report of the Committee of Investigation on Eritrea. (CFM/D/L/48/IC/113, CFM/D/L/48/IC/114).

The Deputies postponed making a decision on the distribution of the Report to other interested Governments. However, they AGREED that when the Report is distributed to the other interested Governments it should be sent out in all three languages simultaneously.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The Deputies DECIDED that the next meeting should be convened in the course of the week commencing March 15th, 1948.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON. S.W.1.
12th March, 1948.

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16th March, 1948.

Your Excellency,

With reference to your letter of the 15th October, 1947 (No.4924), 18th November, 1947 (No.5587) and the 26th February, 1948 on the subject of hearing the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Italian Somaliland who are now living in camps in Italy, I have the honour to inform you that the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers have decided that the views of these refugees should be heard.

The Deputies are in communication with the Commission of Investigation regarding the most suitable time and method of arranging for these hearings.

I shall have the honour to address a further communication to Your Excellency on this subject at a later date.

I have the honour to be,
Your Excellency's obedient
Servant,

(SGD.) S.A. PATON SMITH

Secretary-General.

His Excellency
Duke Tomasso Gallaratti Scotti,
etc., etc..

DRAFT

Letter to His Excellency the Italian Ambassador on the subject of Italian Refugees

Your Excellency,

With reference to your letters of the 15th October, 1947 (No.4924), 18th November, 1947 (No.5567) and the 26th February, 1948 on the subject of hearing the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Italian Somaliland (who are now living in camps in Italy), I have the honour to inform you that the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers have decided that the views of these refugees should be heard.

OK. 15-3.

The Deputies are in communication with the Commission of Investigation regarding the most suitable time and method of arranging for these hearings.

I shall have the honour to address a further communication to Your Excellency on this subject at a later date.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

34

Ambasciata d'Italia,
14, Three Kings Yard,
London, W.1.

1385

18th March, 1948

Sir,

I thank you for your letter of 16th March with which you kindly inform me that the Deputies of the Foreign Ministers have decided that the views of Italian refugees from Libya, Eritrea and Somalia, and now living in Italy, should be heard, and that the Deputies are in communication with the Commission of Investigation regarding the most suitable time and method of arranging for these hearings.

I have forwarded the above information to the Italian Government and I await to receive in due course a further communication from you on this subject.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

V. Gallarate Scott

E. A. Paton-Smith, Esq.,
Secretary General,
Council of Foreign Ministers,
Lancaster House, S.W.1.

3(A).

DRAFT LETTER TO THE SENIOR SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION ON THE SUBJECT OF THE HEARING OF ITALIAN REFUGEES PREPARED BY THE SECRETARIES OF DELEGATIONS FOR APPROVAL BY THE DEPUTIES.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 29th November, 1947, and your letter of the 26th December, 1947, on the subject of hearing refugees from the former Italian Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy, the Deputies have decided that the views of these refugees should be heard.

A suggestion has been made by the U.S.S.R. Delegation that the Commission, after completing its task in Libya, should arrange for one member of each Delegation to visit Italy for a few days on their way to London in order to carry out these hearings.

The Deputies desire to receive the views of the Commission on this subject as soon as possible, bearing in mind that whatever arrangements the Commission may propose should not entail any extension of the established timetable for presentation of the final Report of the Commission.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

3A

SECRET

C.F.M./D/L/48/IC/119

23rd March, 1948. COPY NO. 184

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

The Secretary-General circulates herewith for the information of Delegations a copy of a letter sent to the Senior Secretary, Commission of Investigation, on the 23rd March, 1948. (For letters under reference see C.F.M./D/L/47/IC/83 and C.F.M./D/L/47/IC/85 respectively).

LANCASTER HOUSE,

LONDON, S.W.1.

23rd March, 1948.

23rd March, 1948.

x x x

With reference to my letter of the 29th November, 1947, and your letter of the 26th December, 1947, on the subject of hearing refugees from the former Italian Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy, the Deputies have decided that the views of these refugees should be heard.

The suggestion has been made that the Commission, after completing its task in Libya, should arrange for one member of each Delegation to visit Italy for a few days on their way to London in order to carry out these hearings.

The Deputies desire to receive the views of the Commission on this subject as soon as possible, bearing in mind that whatever arrangements the Commission may propose should not entail any extension of the established timetable for presentation of the final Report of the Commission.

x x x

Secretary General

3A

23rd March, 1948.

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 29th November, 1947, and your letter of the 26th December, 1947, on the subject of hearing refugees from the former Italian Colonies who are now living in camps in Italy, the Deputies have decided that the views of these refugees should be heard.

The suggestion has been made that the Commission, after completing its task in Libya, should arrange for one member of each Delegation to visit Italy for a few days on their way to London in order to carry out these hearings.

The Deputies desire to receive the views of the Commission on this subject as soon as possible, bearing in mind that whatever arrangements the Commission may propose should not entail any extension of the established timetable for presentation of the Final Report of the Commission.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd. E.A. PATON SMITH)

Secretary-General.

Lt.-Col. J.S. Crum,
Senior Secretary,
Commission for the Investigation
of the Former Italian Colonies.

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SECRET

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C.F.M./D/L/48/IC/25th Meeting. COPY NO. _____

22nd March, 1948.

COUNCIL OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

(DEPUTIES)

FORMER ITALIAN COLONIES

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken at the 25th Meeting of the Deputies for the Italian Colonies held at Lancaster House, London, on 22nd March, 1948 at 3.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

FRANCE

M. MASSIGLI (Chairman)
M. Le Roy
M. Andre

U.K.

SIR NOEL CHARLES
Mr. Scott-Fox
Mr. Mason

U.S.A.

MR. GALLMAN
Mr. Thomasson
Mr. Wellons

U.S.S.R.

MR. ZARUBIN
Mr. Saksin

I. RECORD OF DECISIONS OF THE 24TH MEETING

The Deputies APPROVED the Record of Decisions of the 24th Meeting.

II. REVISION OF FRONTIERS BETWEEN LIBYA AND FRENCH TERRITORY (CFM/D/L/48/IC/116)

The Deputies discussed the request of the French Delegation and DECIDED to defer their consideration of this question pending the receipt of additional information from the French Delegation.

III. HEARING OF THE VIEWS OF THE ITALIAN REFUGEES

The Deputies APPROVED the draft of a letter to the Commission of Investigation (CFM/D/L/48/IC/119).

IV. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION ON ERITREA (CFM/D/L/48/IC/113 and CFM/D/L/48/IC/114).

The Secretary-General submitted a report on the present position in connexion with the documents received from the Commission of Investigation (see Annex).

With/

With regard to Section V, Chapter 3, (CFM/D/L/48/IC/113) the Deputies DECIDED that this should be referred back to the Commission with instructions that the Commission should endeavour to produce an agreed text of this chapter; failing this, to reduce any disagreement to a minimum, in which event each Head of Delegation may submit his own version of any disagreed parts or even of the whole chapter.

The Deputies AGREED to defer the discussion of the distribution of the Commission's Report to other interested Governments to a later meeting.

V. MAPS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE REPORT ON ERITREA

The Deputies DECIDED that each of the four Delegations should receive 20 sets of these maps, and that each interested Government receive 2 sets, the remainder to be kept in reserve.

VI. HEARING OF THE VIEWS OF OTHER INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS (CFM/D/L/48/IC/111)

As no fresh information was available on this subject the Deputies DECIDED to leave it on their agenda.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The Deputies DECIDED that if a further meeting is necessary in the present week it should take place on Thursday, 25th March, 1948. Otherwise the Chairman will convene the next meeting in due course.

LANCASTER HOUSE,
LONDON, S.W.1.

1st April, 1948.

(ANNEX)

REPORT ON ERITREA SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION

The Secretary-General has the honour to make the following report on the state of Commission's Report on Eritrea, as on the 22nd March, 1948.

MAIN REPORT (see CFM/D/L/48/IC/114)

Stencils - received in all three languages.

Prepared - 500 copies of the English text.
300 copies of the French text.
250 copies of the Russian text.

Distributed - full normal quantity to each Delegation.

In reserve - sufficient number of copies to supply at least five copies to each of the other Interested Governments.

MAPS referred to in the MAIN REPORT

The Commission has sent us about 180 copies each of 8 Maps to accompany the Report. This number of sets will not be sufficient to provide one set for each copy of the Report. It will be necessary to decide how to distribute these maps, or alternatively to arrange for further sets to be printed in order to make up the full number for distribution. A sample set of these maps is before each Deputy.

DISAGREED CHAPTER, SECTION V, CHAPTER 3 (see CFM/D/L/48/IC/113)

No stencils provided by the Commission.

Typewritten originals of about 82 pages in English and 1½ pages in French.

Prepared - 100 copies.

Distributed - 35 copies to the U.S.A. Delegation.
10 copies to each of the other Delegations.

The Commission has requested that all the material sent to Lancaster House should be returned to the Commission. This can now be done.

If the Deputies decide that the disagreed Chapter is to be distributed in the form in which it was received, it will be necessary for the U.S.S.R. and French Delegations to supply the necessary translations. The amount of work involved is considerable.

APPENDICES

The Senior Secretary of the Commission states that approximately 200 pages will reach London early in April. The material will be in English, and the necessary translations and reproduction will have to be made in London.

/Points

Points on which instructions are requested:-

1. Time and method of distribution of the Main Report.
2. Action to be taken with regard to the Maps.
3. Action to be taken with regard to the Disagreed Chapter.
4. Action to be taken with regard to the Appendices.